**RELIGIOUS GROUPS in the United States**

1. Protestants

* Puritans, Calvinists arrived as the first English settlers (Non- Conformists with the Church of England) showed no tolerance towards religious refugees
  + TODAY:
    - **Mainstream Protestants**: They questions the validity of the stories in the Bible and the authorship
    - **Evangelicals**: Believe in the Bible’s literal meaning
* Baptist: 17th century England and Wales founded,

Baptism of adults by immersion (only adults are able of committing themselves to one faith); became major religious group in the South (slaves); emphasis on Bible reading and preaching (literal interpretation); Civil Rights Movement was influenced by Baptists (Martin Luther King was a Baptist preacher)

* Mormons (Latter- Day Saints)
  + 1830 founded by Joseph Smith who translated the Book of Mormon (history of a people who had settled in North America long before Columbus, came from Jerusalem) which was given to him by Angel Moroni, who guided him after he had visions of God
  + Persecuted because of polygamy (forbidden by Supreme Court in 1882)
  + All members perform religious services because their main aim is missionary work
  + No equality for women because it would upset family life
  + No tea, coffee, alcohol, tobacco
* Amish/ Mennonites
  + Founder was Jakob Amman from Switzerland
  + Wear plain clothes and live a simple life
  + Reject usage of modern machinery and technology

1. Catholics

* Brought by the Irish in the 19th century: increase because of high number of immigrants from Ireland (potato famine)
* Used to be persecuted by KKK

1. Jews

* **Orthodox** Jews from Russia and Poland who followed the strict laws of Judaism and separated themselves from rest of society by living in segregated areas ⇨anti- Semitism
* 1930-1945: refugees from Germany
* After 1945 Jews from eastern Europe and Middle East
* Integration because less orthodox (ethnic group), intermarriages
* Very important contributions to science (Einstein), art (Spielberg, Bernstein), politics (Henry Kissinger), finance and banking

1. Islamic Faith

* Mid- 1960s more non- European immigrants because of new immigration laws
* Many Black Americans changed to the Islamic belief and wanted a separate nation where Whites are avoided (thought that if they had not been forced into slavery, they might have been Muslims)